

## Objecting to a Name Change (Part 4)

Hey. I'm AJ. This video is for you if someone has objected to your request to change a name, or if you want to challenge a proposed name change.

First, I'll discuss what it means to file an objection. I'll also answer several other questions you might have, including, how to object to a name change and how to respond to an objection. Finally, I'll go over how to request a hearing before a judge.

First up: What is an objection?

An objection is a statement that says someone opposes a name change. Anyone can file one if they have a valid reason. You must file your objection with the circuit court in writing and you must meet the deadline stated in the notice of the name change.

Let's talk about the objection process.

If you have seen a notice of name change and want to challenge it, you must act quickly. Use form CC-##-### to tell the circuit court about your objection and write a statement describing valid reasons for your objection. You may have first-hand knowledge about an illegal or fraudulent purpose for the name change. Or, maybe you're a parent and you don't want your child's last name changed. Clearly state those reasons.

Your written objection must include a supporting affidavit. An affidavit is your promise to the court under the penalty of perjury that the facts you state in your objection are true. You must also state that you are competent to testify. Your affidavit doesn't have to be witnessed or notarized.

The final step is to file your form and statement with the circuit court and have the documents served on the person seeking a name change. You can do this by mail or in person. If you have questions about serving someone, go to [mdcourts.gov/namechange](http://mdcourts.gov/namechange). There you can find a link to a video about service of process.

Now let's turn to the other side of the case – responding to an objection.

If you are served with an objection to your name change request, you have 15 days to respond. Write out your response and submit it to the court before the deadline.

While an objection and a response must be submitted in writing, you might prefer an in-person hearing before a judge to explain the facts.

Request a hearing in writing, either in your objection to the name change. Or, if you are the person requesting a name change, in your response to the objection.

Let's do a quick review of these steps.

An objection is a statement opposing a name change request. To object, submit a written statement with valid reasons and include an affidavit. To respond to an objection, submit a written reply within 15 days of being served. Finally, either party can request an in-person hearing.

Remember, you can always visit [mdcourts.gov/namechange](http://mdcourts.gov/namechange) for more help. Thanks for watching.